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Minsi Lake: Doggies Visits, COVID 19 Social Distancing and Masks

By Michael Ortoski / Vice Chair of Friends of Minsi Lake
 Since the first opening of the lake dogs were not permitted on the property, with signs posted thru out the park area.
 Pa. Fish and Boat Commission has since revised that as of the first of the year and Northampton County Parks & Rec. has provided hand bags to scoop up your dogs poop & receptacles to dispose of it at the West shore parking lot.
 Other signage about dog visitors asks that every pet be on a leash at all times for the safety of the public and the wildlife.
 The Minsi Lake park has become a great recreational attraction, now that the dam has been repaired, parking lots and trails paved and fish & bird habitat structures installed with more great things to come.
 Most all other parks in Northampton County are closed due to the COVID 19 outbreak, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission who owns and operates the lake decided to keep it open to the public.
 Every one visiting the lake should be following the guidelines set by the CDC and enforced by Governor Wolf.
 Social distancing of 6 ft. and wearing a mask of some sort when in public.
 Please follow the rules at the park so we don't show up one day to find Minsi Lake in LOCK DOWN!



Honoring ALL Who Sacrificed With Lights

By Timothy J. Egan, MS, LAT, ATC Athletic Director / Pen Argyl Area High School
 PEN ARGYL - On Friday, April 17, 2020, PIAA District XI Member Schools honored ALL students from the Class of 2020 who had their senior year cut short and supporting the nurses, doctors, and first responders on the front line of COVID-19 by lighting up their stadiums between the hours of 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM. Pen Argyl Area High School joined in this recognition by lighting up our High School classrooms and offices in support of the campaign.



Self-Employed, Independent Contractors Available for Unemployment Benefits

By Rep. Joe Emrick
 The application for unemployment compensation (UC) benefits for self-employed workers, independent contractors and others not typically eligible for benefits is NOW AVAILABLE on the Pennsylvania unemployment compensation system website. Here's the link <http://links.pahousenews.com/q/v1iBBHIsAN9KuppZUEmQho37u4NjJcuAnc1rmG3tlc7yUBaZSCD0BNK3Bb4Q>
 The Department of Labor and Industry encourages the following who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 to apply for benefits: self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers, people without sufficient work history to qualify for regular UC, and people who have exhausted regular UC or extended benefits.

UC APPLICATION FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS NOW AVAILABLE

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References available from residential to commercial sources.

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EMS Distribution of PPE to County Agencies

By Becky Bartlett

On April 20th, Northampton County Emergency Management Services (EMS) distributed, N-95 masks, surgical masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, MediClean Sanitary Solution, and protective clothing to the Coroner's Office, Juvenile Probation, Bangor Borough, Bethlehem Township, Forks Township, Hanover Township and the City of Easton.

"It is important that our first responders and county employees have the proper equipment to protect themselves as well as the public," says Lamont McClure. "Northampton County EMS is working diligently to provide county agencies with the necessary PPE."

Donations of hand sanitizer, MediClean Solutions and masks came from a local companies. Masks,

Self Employed Benefits

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For questions about program eligibility and information about the documents you will need to provide when applying, click here.

The special Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits were authorized by the federal CARES Act and required a separate application process to be created online. The site is now up and running. Based on the volume of questions my office has received about this program, I'm certain the site will be busy as people learn of its availability. If you have difficulty accessing the site, be sure to try again later.

If you experience a problem or have a question, please send it by email to UCHelp@PA.Gov. This is the fastest way to receive a response, though it unfortunately may still take a few days due to the volume of people currently filing unemployment claims.

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Blue Valley Times

900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

Available on the web 24/7 at www.bluevalleytimes.com and Facebook

Phone: 610-452-9234

Email: bvtimes@rcn.com

News / Advertising Deadline

12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna
Publisher - Michael Ortoski
Sales - Michael Ortoski
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown
Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger
Interns from Pen Argyl, Bangor and
Stroudsburg H.S.

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Blue Valley Times